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Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 3 November 1994, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. BUTLER (Australia)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (E/1994/121, E/1994/124)

The PRESIDENT drew attention to the provisional agenda for the resumed substantive session (E/1994/121) and to a correction in the title of agenda item 4, which should read: "Advancement of women: merger of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Development Fund for Women".

He had also received a request made by the representative of Germany, on behalf of the European Union, in a letter issued as document E/1994/124, for the inclusion of an additional agenda item entitled "Full participation by the European Community in the Commission on Sustainable Development".

If there were no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the agenda contained in document E/1994/121, as orally amended and with the inclusion of the additional agenda item just mentioned.

It was so decided.

ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN: MERGER OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN AND THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUND (A/49/217-E/1994/103, A/49/365-E/1994/119; E/1994/68 and Corr.1, CRP.1)

Mrs. ALVAREZ (Dominican Republic) said that, despite a chronic shortage of funds, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women had, since its creation in 1976, successfully carried out a number of essential tasks, particularly in the area of statistics. While her delegation supported the current process of restructuring of the Organization, it considered that the elimination or drastic alteration of the only existing research and training organization for the advancement of women within the United Nations system could only be interpreted as an abuse of power.

Furthermore, the Secretariat had used unorthodox methods to predispose Governments in favour of the proposed merger, in clear disregard of Article 100 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Since the merger proposal had been announced, working conditions had deteriorated at the Institute, where a number of key posts had been left vacant, in contrast to the situation at the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). Such a state of affairs would inevitably undermine the cause of the advancement of women.

It was also disturbing to note that some delegations were arguing that a decision must be taken before the end of the year, as stipulated in General Assembly resolution 48/111. The Council must insist that all provisions of its decision 1993/235 and of General Assembly resolution 48/111 should be complied with before a decision on the proposed merger was taken.

(Mrs. Alvarez, Dominican Republic)

The problems the Institute had encountered from its inception showed how difficult it was for women throughout the world to gain recognition of the importance of their social, cultural and economic role.

Some industrialized countries felt that, because of the size of their contributions, they had the right to dictate what policies the Organization should follow. However, the United Nations system was functioning as a result of the contributions of all Member States, regardless of their size or resources. Besides, the industrialized countries were not the only ones in a position to boast of their generosity; the contributions in kind made by the Dominican Republic to the Institute, for example, were nearly equivalent to the contributions in cash made by the United States.

Her Government was acutely aware that much remained to be done before the goals of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the advancement of women could be realized. The Institute's mandate had been and continued to be important. As they prepared to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, Member States should defend the integrity and cohesion of the Organization and make sure that the "financial crisis" it was facing was not compounded by "moral crisis."

ELECTIONS, NOMINATIONS AND CONFIRMATIONS

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take up the elections in the order in which the organs were listed in the Journal.

It was so decided.

Elections (postponed from previous sessions)

International Narcotics Control Board

The PRESIDENT suggested that the election to fill the vacancy left by the death of Mr. Khan (Pakistan) should be postponed, since the time-limit for the submission of nominations was 25 November.

It was so decided.

Commission on Human Settlements

The PRESIDENT announced that Kazakhstan had been endorsed as a candidate by the Group of Asian States for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1995.

Kazakhstan was elected a member of the Commission on Human Settlements by acclamation.

Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting.

Mr. COLOMA (Chile) said that Chile was a candidate from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1995.

The PRESIDENT announced that the Group of Asian States had endorsed Jordan and Pakistan as candidates for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1995.

Chile, Jordan and Pakistan were elected members of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting by acclamation.

The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Council wished to postpone the election of the other members of the Working Group until a future session.

It was so decided.

Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development (E/1994/11/Rev.1/Add.1)

The PRESIDENT said that he had received the announcement that Mr. Isaza (Colombia), whose biographical data were contained in document E/1994/11/Rev.1/Add.1, was a candidate for the vacancy left by Mr. Restrepo Salazar (Colombia).

Mr. Isaza was elected a member of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development by acclamation.

The PRESIDENT said that he took it that the Council wished to postpone until a future session the election of three members from the Group of African States.

It was so decided.

Committee for the United Nations Population Award

The PRESIDENT said that the Group of Asian States had endorsed the Philippines as a candidate for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1995.

The Philippines was elected a member of the Committee for the United Nations Population Award by acclamation.

Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (E/1994/46 and Add.1)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect five members to the Board of Trustees for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 30 June 1997. The biographical data on the candidates could be found in documents E/1994/46 and Add.1. For the Group of Eastern European States, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and the Group of Western European and other States, the number of candidates was equal to the number of vacancies.

Mrs. Siemienska-Zochowska (Poland), Mrs. Saunders (Bahamas) and Mrs. Acuner (Turkey) were elected members of the Board of Trustees by acclamation.

The PRESIDENT noted that there were more candidates than vacancies for the Group of African States and the Group of Asian States and invited the Council to hold elections by secret ballot.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Ponikiewski (Poland) and Mr. Barnett (United Kingdom) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers: 48

Invalid ballots: 2

Number of valid ballots: 46

Abstentions: 1

Number of members voting: 45

Required majority: 23

Number of votes obtained:

Africa States:

Mrs. Hassar (Morocco): 27

Mrs. Badran (Egypt): 11

Mrs. Keita (Mali): 6

Asian States:

Mrs. Soedarsono (Indonesia): 28

Mrs. Al-Shomaly (Bahrain): 17

Having obtained the required majority, Mrs. Hassar (Morocco) and Mrs. Soedarsono (Indonesia) were elected members of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women.

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, Population Commission, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Commission on Science and Technology for Development and Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes

The PRESIDENT said that since no candidates had been proposed for those bodies, he took it that the Council wished to postpone the elections until a future session.

It was so decided.

Nominations (postponed from previous sessions)

World Food Council

The PRESIDENT said that the Group of Asian States had endorsed the Marshall Islands and the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States had endorsed the Dominican Republic as candidates for the World Food Council for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1995. If he hear no objections he would take it that the Council wished to submit those two nominations for election by the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session and to postpone until a future session the nomination of the three other candidates (one from the Group of Eastern European States and two from the Group of Wester European and other States).

It was so decided.

SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION: REPORTS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES, CONFERENCES AND RELATED QUESTIONS (E/1994/L.49)

The PRESIDENT said that for the Council to begin consideration of item 6 it would have to reopen the discussion of item 5 of the agenda for the substantive session (E/1994/100). He took it that the Council wished to follow that procedure.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT said that the Council had before it a draft decision (E/1994/L.49), prepared by the Commission on Human Rights at its fiftieth session and inadvertently omitted from chapter I of the Commission's report (E/1994/24 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2), whereby the Council would endorse the Commission's resolution 1994/64.

Draft decision E/1994/L.49 was adopted.

The Council concluded its consideration of agenda item 6.

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.